

Message

From: Giarmoleo, Julia [Giarmoleo.Julia@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/14/2021 10:27:14 PM
To: Lyons, John [Lyons.John@epa.gov]; Chesnutt, John [Chesnutt.John@epa.gov]; Huang, Judy [Huang.Judy@epa.gov]; Barton, Dana [Barton.Dana@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: NOAA/EPA Joint Briefing with Sen. Feinstein Staff on Deep Ocean DDT Contamination off the Southern California Coast

Great, I'll let Alexis know. Thank you!

From: Lyons, John <Lyons.John@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 3:26 PM
To: Giarmoleo, Julia <Giarmoleo.Julia@epa.gov>; Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>; Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>; Barton, Dana <Barton.Dana@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: NOAA/EPA Joint Briefing with Sen. Feinstein Staff on Deep Ocean DDT Contamination off the Southern California Coast

Hi Julia

We rescheduled it to June 24th because of availability (vacations/leave) of key players last week.

John Lyons
Acting Deputy Director
Region 9 Superfund and Emergency Management Division
(415) 972-3889
(415) 265-0908(cell)

From: Giarmoleo, Julia <Giarmoleo.Julia@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 3:19 PM
To: Chesnutt, John <Chesnutt.John@epa.gov>; Huang, Judy <Huang.Judy@epa.gov>; Barton, Dana <Barton.Dana@epa.gov>; Lyons, John <Lyons.John@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: NOAA/EPA Joint Briefing with Sen. Feinstein Staff on Deep Ocean DDT Contamination off the Southern California Coast

Good afternoon,

See below for a follow-up question from Sen. Feinstein's office regarding whether the early June meeting referenced below has occurred or been scheduled?

Thanks!

Julia

From: Segal, Alexis (Feinstein) <Alexis_Segal@feinstein.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 3:04 PM
To: Gill, Sonam <Gill.Sonam@epa.gov>
Cc: Giarmoleo, Julia <Giarmoleo.Julia@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: NOAA/EPA Joint Briefing with Sen. Feinstein Staff on Deep Ocean DDT Contamination off the Southern California Coast

Hello – thanks again for the Montrose Superfund and PV Shelf briefing last week.

Has the June meeting referenced below occurred or been scheduled? Any information you can share? Senator Feinstein is very eager to know next steps the agencies will be taking on this issue.

Thanks,
Alexis

From: Gill, Sonam <Gill.Sonam@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 12:39 PM

To: Segal, Alexis (Feinstein) <Alexis_Segal@feinstein.senate.gov>

Cc: Giarmoleo, Julia <Giarmoleo.Julia@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: NOAA/EPA Joint Briefing with Sen. Feinstein Staff on Deep Ocean DDT Contamination off the Southern California Coast

Hi Alexis,

Please see responses to your questions below.

Thank you,

Sonam

He said that EPA's current view is the dominant source of DDT to the CA bight was from the wastewater treatment plant on the PV shelf and not the deep-sea dumping that we were discussing. I'm wondering how EPA has established that view, especially since simultaneously, a theme of the briefing was how little we know about the effects of the offshore dumping. Was there a study or studies he was relying on? If there's more information, that would be really helpful.

It's important to note that the wastewater treatment plant referenced is the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant located in Torrance. This is a source of contamination for the PV Shelf, an underwater, near-shore segment of the Montrose Superfund Site where contamination from the wastewater treatment plant settled after being discharged via sewer line outfalls. While this discharge may account for the majority of DDT discharged by Montrose to the ocean, as discussed below, Montrose's deep-water disposal, as well as non-point source pollution from historic uses of DDT, also contribute to DDT ocean contamination across the Southern California Bight.

EPA's statement about the wastewater treatment plant being the dominant source of DDT to the ocean is based on a key 1985 Regional Water Quality Control Board report entitled, "Ocean Dumping Under Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board Permit: A Review of Past Practices, Potential Adverse Impacts, and Recommendations for Future Action" which states that "Three-fourths of the DDT found in Southern California coastal waters appears to have originated chiefly from the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant outfall two miles offshore of Whites Point (about 1800 metric tons)." (p.1, Executive Summary).

Provide an update of where things currently stand with the PV shelf clean up?

Since EPA's letter to Senator Feinstein on March 24, EPA has awarded a contract to update the human health and ecological risk assessments for the Shelf. EPA will then evaluate the available cleanup technologies in a Feasibility Study, currently scheduled for 2024, and select a final remedy. EPA continues to implement extensive public outreach and education efforts to minimize human exposure to the most imminent risks presented by DDT contamination on the PV

Shelf. This has included educational outreach, fish market inspection programs, and a commercial catch ban – all to prevent and deter consumption of fish contaminated with DDT and PCBs.

EPA has also initiated the second Monitored Natural Recovery (MNR) study to determine the DDT and PCB concentration changes in time in sediment, the water column, and biota. The data collection for this is scheduled to start in December 2021. We are in the process of scheduling a briefing on the Montrose Superfund Site and the PV Shelf with Senator Padilla's office, and would be happy to include your office if you have any further questions, or would like more information on this topic.

We are hearing from EPA they are not the lead agency and are in a support position to NOAA yet hearing the same thing from NOAA. Can you clarify EPA's position? And also let me know the list of agencies who are invited to the early June meeting on this topic that was mentioned in the briefing.

Addressing this issue requires all participating agencies to collaborate and leverage all available resources. Both NOAA and EPA have taken action on the next steps identified by participating agencies; however, because of the respective authorities and roles state and federal agencies may have in this process, a lead cannot be identified until more information is known.

Participating agencies in the three meetings to-date, as well as the next meeting planned for early June, include senior leaders from U.S. EPA, NOAA, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Cal EPA, the California Natural Resources Agency, the California State Water Resources Control Board, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

From: Segal, Alexis (Feinstein) <Alexis_Segal@feinstein.senate.gov>

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 8:53 AM

To: Gill, Sonam <Gill.Sonam@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: NOAA/EPA Joint Briefing with Sen. Feinstein Staff on Deep Ocean DDT Contamination off the Southern California Coast

Hi Sonam – Thank you very much again for helping to organize the briefing on Monday. It was really helpful and informative. I had a follow up question for John Lyons based on a statement he made during this week's briefing. He said that EPA's current view is the dominant source of DDT to the CA bite was from the wastewater treatment plant on the PV shelf and not the deep-sea dumping that we were discussing. I'm wondering how EPA has established that view, especially since simultaneously, a theme of the briefing was how little we know about the effects of the offshore dumping. Was there a study or studies he was relying on? If there's more information, that would be really helpful.

Secondly, if someone could provide an update of where things currently stand with the PV shelf clean up, I'd appreciate it.

Lastly, we are hearing from EPA they are not the lead agency and are in a support position to NOAA yet hearing the same thing from NOAA. Can you clarify EPA's position? And also let me know the list of agencies who are invited to the early June meeting on this topic that was mentioned in the briefing. Thanks! Happy to hop on phone if that would be helpful.

From: Gill, Sonam <Gill.Sonam@epa.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 4:52 PM

To: Lazarus, Jim (Feinstein) <Jim_Lazarus@feinstein.senate.gov>; Muller, Peter (Feinstein)

<Peter_Muller@feinstein.senate.gov>; Segal, Alexis (Feinstein) <Alexis_Segal@feinstein.senate.gov>; Christian, Jeanette

(Feinstein) <Jeanette_Christian@feinstein.senate.gov>; Ebiner, Angela (Padilla) <Angela_Ebiner@padilla.senate.gov>;

Boehr, Craig (Padilla) <Craig_Boehr@padilla.senate.gov>; Swig, Sarah (Padilla) <Sarah_Swig@padilla.senate.gov>

Cc: Becky Lizama - NOAA Federal <becky.lizama@noaa.gov>

Subject: RE: NOAA/EPA Joint Briefing with Sen. Feinstein Staff on Deep Ocean DDT Contamination off the Southern California Coast

Good afternoon,

Attached is the presentation from our discussion earlier today. If you have any questions please let me know.

Sonam Gill
Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison
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